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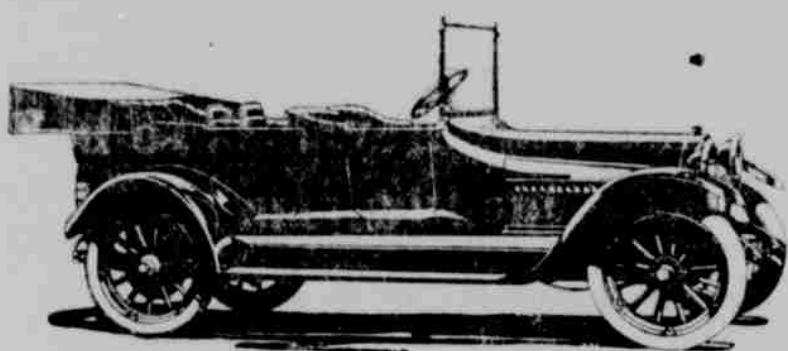


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Studebaker's Greatest Achievement "The Series 18"

- Body Refinement
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- Comfort in Spacious
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- Tonneau
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- Folding Seats which
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Implements

of All Kinds

Wagons and Buggies

Agent for Anker-Holt
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Cream Separators.

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The Mistletoe Legend.

The harmless and good old Christmas custom of kissing under the mistletoe is a perennial source of discussion and dispute, but have you any idea how it originated? This is the story.

Balder, the Scandinavian god of poetry and eloquence—so says the legend—sought immunity from the violence of his enemies by extracting from everything, in earth, fire and water, a promise to do him no hurt. Foolishly, he forgot to obtain this assurance from mistletoe, and Loki, his great enemy, on learning this, took a liking to shoot Balder with an arrow made from a bough of mistletoe.

Now, the other gods and goddesses on hearing of the death of Balder, who was a great favorite with them, prayed that out of the love they bore him he might be restored to life. Thus when this came to pass, mistletoe, instead of being an emblem of death, became the emblem of love and as such was given to the goddess of love to keep and guard, while every one who passed under the bough she held in her hand was expected to salute her with a tender kiss.

Father and Mother Christmas

It was that sanguine Celt, the late William Flynn, says a writer in the Indianapolis News, who remarked on the morning of March 18, the day following the ovation to the memory of Erin's patron saint, when Mr. Flynn had ridden at the head of the procession, "Ah, now, gentlemen, 'tis this day we'll begin to get ready for St. Patrick's day—sure it's only a year away."

Of Father Christmas, with his arctic whiskers, we neither see nor hear until about six weeks before the twenty-fifth day of December, and then he sometimes presents himself as a purely commercial character, flamboyantly in the public eye.

Another Christmas, of whom we rarely hear, dear kind hearted, modest dame, who does good by stealth, is on the job 365 days in the year, putting this and that aside in some cryptic corner to be brought from its hiding place at the hallowed and gracious time we call Christmas. Whatever the Pilgrim fathers may have brought to this country they certainly brought none of the festive fancies we now trace about the day that celebrates the birth of the babe at Bethlehem and the marvelous message of peace on earth, good will to men. The tenderer things attaching to the time came many, many years later and arrived, as far as the middle west was concerned, somewhere along in the fifties with the early German immigrants.

The first Christmas tree ever set up in this city was at the home of a humble German on the south side. All alight with candles, it excited the greatest attention in this community, and in the procession of Christmases that have followed this single tree has been multiplied by thousands.

The tree, with its lights and adornings, is an ancient custom in Germany, coming down from the middle ages. In this new country, we have no traditions, no fine old customs except such as our immigrants have been kind enough to bring over with them, and truly none of these is as wholesome and pleasing as those that are attached to Christmas eve and Christmas day. We have some trouble perhaps at times in framing our lips to pronounce the names that come to us from abroad for Father Christmas. It is not easy for us to say Kris Kringle and when we have said it we have but given the beautiful term "Kris Kringle," infant Christ, after a badly twisted fashion. The French, who use the term, "le petit Jesus," the infant Jesus, do much better. We save ourselves, however, with the designation, "Santa Claus," which is Dutch for St. Nicholas.

Two Christmas Gifts.

"One year, when cash was the scarcest thing on this farm," a farmer said, "I marked off a small plot in my truck garden, and on Christmas day I told my boy the use of this plot was all the gift I could afford that year. It was his start toward that truck field, which is paying his way to college."

A dollar and a quarter did not seem a very big sum to Mrs. Blank, who lives near Washington, but it was what she received for some violets sold near Christmas time, and she gave it to her wee daughter. Before the blooming season was over the account had been increased to \$25. This was several years ago, and the violet raising now means many dollars a year.

True Greatness.

Life is made up of little things. It is but once in an age that occasion is offered for doing a great deal. True greatness consists in being great in little things.—George MacDonald.

"Father, what is meant by the artistic temperament?"

"The artistic temperament, my boy, is a sort of a reserve alibi which usually saves the artist from prosecution on a charge of disturbing the peace."

—Puck.

USEFUL HOLIDAY GIFTS

Make This Christmas

Extend Through the Whole Year

By Selecting From Our Useful Permanent Gifts

For the Boy

Watches
Sleds
Skates
Adding Banks
Pocket Knives
Tools
Foot Sets
Tennis Rackets
Indian Clubs
Wheel Barrows
Rocking Horses
Velocipedes
Hand Cars

For Father

Pocket Knives
Flash Lights
Safety Razors
Sure Edge Razors
Razor Straps
Shaving Mirrors

For Mother

Coffee Percolators
Chafing Dishes
Casseroles
Crumb Trays
Electric Irons
Carving Sets
Scissors
Scissor Sets
Manicure Sets
Flash Lights

For the Girls

Sleds
Skates
Watches
Banks
Cash Registers
Silver Sets
Toy Wagons
Silver Spoons
Scissors
Scissor Sets
Manicure Sets

The wonder of the present time—Grinnell Electric Washer

No lifting until you take the basket to hang out the clothes. A guarantee for Five Years. *Cheaper than Water Power.* Come in and let me show you.

To Make Your Future Easier and More Pleasant, Get

A Gas Range A Trico Bicycle
A Garland Home Heater A Hand Vacuum Cleaner
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H. B. HOUGH
HARDWARE

These Gifts
Will Last
For Years

ANNOUNCEMENT

It has been claimed by many, and particularly in the public press, that rents in Alma have soared until they threaten the further development of the city, and serious minded persons are taking thought to what remedy can improve these conditions.

Among those vitally interested in the matter are the officers of the Republic Truck Company who are concerned not only in the city's growth in numbers, but whose own interests suggest that the additions coming in, particularly those seeking positions with them, shall constitute both a substantial and permanent citizenship.

Therefore they have taken counsel with other public spirited citizens and capitalists in Alma to the end that they might together devise some plan that would tend to reduce the high cost of rents, assist in permanent and substantial growth and upbuilding of the city, and at the same time justify those who will furnish the financial backing necessary for that purpose.

The result has been that Frank W. Ruggles, President, T. A. Burt, Vice President, Charles Rhodes, Secretary, and George W. Moore Treasurer, respectively, of the Republic Truck Company, and Messrs Ira H. McKinney, Mayor of the city, Charles O. Ward, P. M. Smith, J. W. Blakely, Harry Gerber and C. V. Calkins have joined in inducing Messrs. W. McC. Johnson, and W. B. Johnson, extensive builders in Detroit and elsewhere, to join them in the organization of the Kensington Heights Homes Company, the purpose of which is to finance the building of two hundred and fifty neat, entirely modern, and substantial homes in Alma, and sell them on reasonable cash payments and long time to deserving and substantial citizens now struggling with high rents.

The buying of material entering into these homes in not less than fifty house-pattern lots, and for spot cash money, gets not only all the usual trade discounts and commissions off (which are usually not less than five to fifteen per cent) but

also gets in most lines at least twice that discount, so that it is believed that by taking advantage of these low prices, enough can be saved, in the buying alone and construction, to supply these homes to buyers much lower than they could possibly build them singly, and yet save enough also to justify those financing the enterprise in so doing.

They have purchased and laid out the beautiful forty-acre tract, fronting on Michigan Ave., at the east end of the City, into handsome boulevards, avenues and streets, which are now being opened up and improved. On Michigan Ave. will be built only handsome and expensive homes, on other streets homes just as pretty but rather less expensive, while on still others, modest little bungalow homes which, while inexpensive will be just as pretty and convenient as those costing hundreds of dollars more money.

The first homes built will be such as are usually sold at from twelve hundred fifty to two thousand dollars each, but being built under these advantageous conditions, the low price of only from one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars will be named and the terms, only a reasonable cash payment, balance on long time with small monthly payments exactly as is now being paid for rent. The difference by this plan is, that in a short time you will own your own home instead of as now, when some other man is owning it and charging you rent for it.

Those contemplating buying or owning a nice home in a beautiful subdivision, where each will conform to the surrounding homes nicely, and where each will be the very last word in modern bungalow constructions, will conserve their own interests very largely by consulting Mr. Johnston, who is in full charge of the enterprise, at as early date as possible, as many of these homes have already been spoken for, and if the demand continues, it may be impossible to supply all as promptly as might be wished or as many as might be found desirable.

KENSINGTON HEIGHTS HOMES CO.

W. McC. Johnston, General Manager